

“Discover Your Language” training in Papua New Guinea

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Objectives

- Firstly, to train translators to appreciate the grammatical structure of their language, in order to improve their translation skills
- Secondly, to facilitate the writing of a tentative descriptive grammar by the translators & mentor

Limitations

- The typological diversity of PNG languages: Trans-New Guinea, Trans-Fly in Western Province, Papuan Tip in Milne Bay, Oceanic Austronesian, Torricelli, etc.
- Mentors who do not have previous experience with the language (family)
- Limited English proficiency of the course participants
- FLEX software is used to interlinearize texts, but only with word-level glosses.

Consultants/Teachers/Mentors

The DYL course is part of PILAT, the Pacific Institute of Languages, Arts and Translation, and is staffed by various linguists and non-linguists from SIL.

- René van den Berg, James Hafford, & more
- Phil King (2013, 2014), Ryan Pennington (2013, 2014, 2015), Faith Turner (2014, 2015), Sissie D’Jernes (2014, 2015), Ray Stegeman, Joyce Wood (2013, 2016), Michel Pauw (2016)

Looking forward

- Revamping the course schedule to improve the collection of oral & written texts
- Improving the application of linguistics to translation
- DYL-related training is beginning or already happening in 3-4 SIL programs across PNG. It will be interesting to learn from their experiences.



DYL 2013

Aramba, Western Province (Trans-Fly, TNG)
Waima, Central Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Abadi, Central Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Amam, Morobe Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Angataaha, Morobe Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Guhu-Samane, Morobe Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Arop, Sandaun Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Malol, Sandaun Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Onnele, Sandaun Province (Torricelli)
Bauni-Pou, Sandaun Province (Skou)

DYL 2014

Somba Siawari, Morobe Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Finongan, Morobe Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Bau, Madang Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Mekeo, Central Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Suau, Milne Bay (Oceanic Austronesian)
Tawala, Milne Bay (Oceanic Austronesian)

DYL 2015

Barai, Oro Province (Trans-New Guinea)
Miniafia, Oro Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Ubir, Oro Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Mekeo, Central Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Buhutu, Milne Bay (Oceanic Austronesian)

DYL 2016

Aramba, Western Province (Trans-Fly, TNG)
Gadsup, Eastern Highlands (Trans-New Guinea)
Fore, Eastern Highlands (Trans-New Guinea)
Fanamaketa, New Ireland (Oceanic Austronesian)
Feni, New Ireland (Oceanic Austronesian)
Arop, Sandaun Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Malol, Sandaun Province (Oceanic Austronesian)
Onnele-Wolwale, Sandaun Province, (Torricelli)
Bumbita Arapesh, East Sepik (Torricelli)
Bauni-Barupu, Sandaun Province, (Skou)



René teaching the Realis/Irrealis lesson

Ray teaching the lesson on Tense

